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March 14, 2001

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Suite 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

To whom it may concern:

We are very disappointed that the FDA has chosen to mandate only "voluntary" labeling of foods containing genetically modified organisms. We believe that the new rules should require mandatory labeling.

As taxpayers and voting citizens, we view one of the primary functions of the FDA to be ensuring the reasonable protection of all Americans from unsafe food or drugs through practical rule making, policies and enforcement. We feel that, by not requiring mandatory labeling of such foods, the FDA has failed in this function.

Many reputable scientific sources have reported the unknowns and clear dangers of using genetically modified crops and livestock: potential allergic reactions, increased biotoxicity, potential for increased carcinogenic activity, potential genocide of lower species, etc. These reports, based on sound science, clearly illustrate that there are too many unknowns in this new discipline to consider its products "reasonably safe." Therefore, by not requiring the producers and processors of such foods to include adequate labeling on their packaging, the FDA is releasing upon unsuspecting Americans a potential health and environmental threat that they have no opportunity to avoid because they are not being provided with adequate information.

Please, put the health of millions of American citizens ahead of the bottom-line interests of agribusiness. We ask you to require mandatory labeling of foods containing genetically modified organisms.

Sincerely,


Kristie Nason

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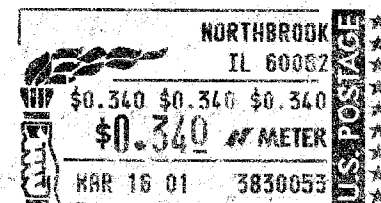
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